

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-9, 11-13 are pending. Claims 10 and 14-18 have been cancelled. Claims 1-7 are indicated as allowed. Claims 11 and 12 directed to applicant's means for locking the power output shaft are objected to as allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim.

Claims 8, 9, 14-18 have been rejected as unpatentable over US Patent 5,163,527 to Eveleth as being anticipated under 35 USC § 102 or as being obvious under 35 USC § 103. However, in paragraph 4, the Examiner acknowledges that "Eveleth is silent regarding a means for locking the shaft in the housing and a sleeve for connecting the motor output shaft to the axle shaft." Applicant has amended independent claim 8 directed to an axle assembly for a transport system for a portable auger to include the combination of both the "means for selectively locking the drive hub to the powered wheel axle" and the "means for locking the power output shaft." Applicant respectfully submits that the above-noted combination in conjunction with all the other elements of claim 8 are not disclosed nor suggested by Eveleth. Accordingly, applicant's claimed combination for an axle assembly for a transport system for a portable auger would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

CONCLUSION

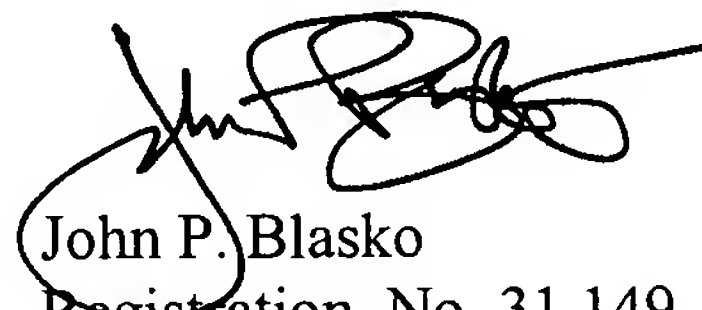
Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and applicant respectfully requests that all claims be allowed.

Applicants request that any questions concerning this matter be directed to the undersigned at 609.895.6639. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Applicant also authorizes the charge of any deficiency and/or the credit of any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1943.

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard evidencing receipt of this document.

Respectfully submitted,



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